

Amendments to the Specification

Amend paragraph [0008] of the specification as follows:

[0008] The shortcomings of the prior art are overcome and additional advantages are provided through the provision of a method of testing a software component, including: creating an abstraction matrix that describes the software component, the abstraction matrix including state and event information; parsing the abstraction matrix to generate test cases and mapped expected results ~~therefore~~ therefor; separating the test cases based on layers of the software component, and associating data structures with the separated test cases of the layers, the data structures allowing the test cases of the various layers to be uncorrelated; employing a software component in executable form to generate for each layer of the software component test case execution threads from the test cases and map expected results for that layer; and executing in parallel at least some of the test case execution threads for at least one layer of the software component, thereby testing the software component.

Amend paragraph [0009] of the specification as follows:

[0009] In another aspect, a method of generating test cases for use in testing a software component is provided. This method includes: ascertaining a functional specification of the software component; creating an abstraction matrix that describes the software component using the functional specification, the abstraction matrix comprising state and event information; parsing the abstraction matrix to generate test cases and mapped expected results ~~therefore~~ therefor; and separating the test cases based on layers of the software component, and associating data structures with the separated test cases of the layers, the data structures allowing the test cases of the various layers to be uncorrelated.